

## By the Queene.

### *A Proclamation agaynst the maintenaunce of Pirates.*



**P** Her Maiestie vnderstandeth, that although by her former commaundementes notified by proclamation to all her subiectes, and namely to her officers in her Portes, for the staying, ceasing, and suppressing of all occasions of piracies: yet some numbers of vessels armed with certayne disordered persons mixt of sundry nations, do still haunt the narrow seas, and resort secretly into small Creekes and obscure places of this Realme for reliefe of vittayles, and suche lyke: And for their better defence to escape apprehension, do colourably pretende that they be licenced to serue on the seas, and are not to be accompted culpable as pirates. For remedie whereof, and to the intent no maner of pretext shall serue eyther suche persons to commit piracies, or any other that shall relieue them for priuate gayne or fauour by fayned colours or pretence of ignorance: Her Maiestie straightly chargeth and commaundeth all maner officers and ministers, hauing rule and charge within any Port towne, or hauing auctoritie to make deputies vnder them in any Creeke or landing place whersoever the same be, that from hencefoorth no maner of person comming from the sea, be suffered to haue any vittayle, munition, or any other reliefe for hym selfe, his company, or vessel, except it be suche as are notoriously knownen to apperteyne to marchauntes shippes, passengers, or fishermen, hauing neede thereof. Neyther that any person do bye or receaue any wares or goodes of any person directly or indirectly comming from the seas, vntill the same wares or goodes be brought and landed openly according to the lawes of the Realme in places accustomed, with consent of the officers of the customes, and that all duties be first payde for the same, according to the vsage of marchauntes, vppon payne that whosoever shall do the contrarie, or be consentynge thereto, shall be vppon due information committed to prison, there to remayne without bayle, vntill inquisition be made (according to the lawes of this Realme) of them and their factes, as in cases of piracies, and to be adjudged and executed as pirates, as by lawe shall be ordered. And whosoever shall geue information hereof agaynst any officer of the customes, or any their deputies, and shall be able to proue the same, if any wise the Infourmer be meete to exercise the same office, they shall inioy the same, or otherwyle shall be duely and liberally recompensed according to their demerites.

Furthermore her Maiestie wylleth and commaundeth all maner her officers, and specially Wardens of Portes, Viceadmiralles, Constables, or Capitaynes of Castles vpon the seas, and al other hauing any office in Port townes or places of landyng, that they shall soorthwith, as they wyl aunsweere at their bittermost peryll, to do theyr bittermost in their iurisdiccions to enquire, lay wayte, and thereby apprehende al maner of persons that do haunt the seas with any kynde of vessels armed, beyng not an apparaunt marchaunt, and utterly to stay all others making preparation therto, and their vessels, other then such only as shall be openly knowne to be ordinarie marchauntes, passengers, or vsuall fishermen: And not from hencefoorth to allowe or admit any allegation of licence to sayle vpon the seas with any vessel armed, but suche as are notoriously belongyng to her Maiestie, and may be sent to the seas for keping the same free from pirates. And if any maner of person shall herein be founde culpable, or manifestly negligent: her Maiestie letteth them certaynele to vnderstande, that their punishment shall be pursued agaynst them with suche seueritie, as the example thereof shall hereafter remayne for others to beware howe in suche cases to offende.

Gyuen at Otelande the thyrde day of August. 1569. in the eleuenth yere of her Maiesties raigne.

*God saue the Queene.*

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